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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/963,952	09/26/2001	Toshihide Hida	1122.65856	1582

7590 10/27/2005

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EXAMINER

MORAWSKI, LINDA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 10/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/963,952

Applicant(s)

HIDA, TOSHIHIDE

Examiner

Linda Morawski

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 September 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this

Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bilbrey et al (US 2002/0103932).

As per claim 1, Bilbrey teaches an absence-response-information accepting process to receive absence response information when a mail address changes (paragraph 10), this information includes the old and new address (paragraph 7); a process to extract a mail address of another member of the group from a previously provided mail list (paragraph 58 and 61); a server to which the absence response information is provided on the basis of the extracted mail address (See Figure 21: Network server); and a process for distributing the information to the specified server (See Figure 27).

As per claim 2, Bilbrey teaches the information received contains information regarding a valid period of the absence response (paragraph 107: timer).

As per claim 3, Bilbrey teaches the information distributing process which simultaneously distributes pieces of absence response information to be

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distributed to the same server to which the absence response information is provided (see Figure 27: network server (2709)).

As per claim 4, Bilbrey teaches an absence-response-information accepting process to receive absence response information when a mail address changes (paragraph 10), this information includes the old and new address (paragraph 7); processing to store and manage the information (database (102) and see Figure 1: process for managing database information); judgment processing to judge if an accepted transmission mail matches the old address contained in the absence response information (paragraph 64 and 92 (1912)); transfer processing to transmit the mail after replacement of the address with the new address when the address matches the old address (claim 15).

As per claim 5, Bilbrey teaches transfer notification when the mail has been transferred to the new address in order to notify the administrator or requestor of the mail that the mail has been transferred to the new address (Figure 27: (2704), network server sends e-mail messages to old and new address to confirm address change).

As per claim 6, Bilbrey teaches an absence-response-information accepting process to receive absence response information when a mail address changes (paragraph 10), this information includes the old and new address (paragraph 7); transmit input data of information to the server (see Figure 27: network server (2709)).

As per claim 7, Bilbrey teaches a program recording medium that stores a program to cause a computer to perform message address management

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(paragraph 115). This involves: an absence-response-information accepting process to receive absence response information when a mail address changes (paragraph 10), this information includes the old and new address (paragraph 7); a process to extract a mail address of another member of the group from a previously provided mail list (paragraph 58 and 61); a server to which the absence response information is provided on the basis of the extracted mail address (See Figure 21: Network server); and a process for distributing the information to the specified server (See Figure 27).

As per claim 8, Bilbrey teaches the information received contains information regarding a valid period of the absence response (paragraph 107: timer).

As per claim 9, Bilbrey teaches the information distributing process which simultaneously distributes pieces of absence response information to be distributed to the same server to which the absence response information is provided (see Figure 27: network server (2709)).

As per claim 10, Bilbrey teaches an absence-response-information accepting process to receive absence response information when a mail address changes (paragraph 10), this information includes the old and new address (paragraph 7); processing to store and manage the information (database (102) and see Figure 1: process for managing database information); judgment processing to judge if an accepted transmission mail matches the old address contained in the absence response information (paragraph 64 and 92 (1912));

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transfer processing to transmit the mail after replacement of the address with the new address when the address matches the old address (claim 15).

As per claim 11, Bilbrey teaches transfer notification when the mail has been transferred to the new address in order to notify the administrator or requestor of the mail that the mail has been transferred to the new address (Figure 27: (2704), network server sends e-mail messages to old and new address to confirm address change).

As per claim 12, Bilbrey teaches an absence-response-information accepting process to receive absence response information when a mail address changes (paragraph 10), this information includes the old and new address (paragraph 7); transmit input data of information to the server (see Figure 27: network server (2709)).

As per claim 13, Bilbrey teaches a message address management system for exchanging messages among servers (paragraph 115 and server (106), whereby the server is communicating with other ISPs which may contain a server according to paragraph 115) comprising: an absence-response-information accepting process to receive absence response information when a mail address changes (paragraph 10), this information includes the old and new address (paragraph 7); a process to extract a mail address of another member of the group from a previously provided mail list (paragraph 58 and 61); a server to which the absence response information is provided on the basis of the extracted mail address (See Figure 21: Network server); and a process for distributing the information to the specified server (See Figure 27).

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As per claim 14, Bilbrey teaches the information received contains information regarding a valid period of the absence response (paragraph 107: timer).

As per claim 15, Bilbrey teaches the information distributing process which simultaneously distributes pieces of absence response information to be distributed to the same server to which the absence response information is provided (see Figure 27: network server (2709)).

As per claim 16, Bilbrey teaches a message address management system for exchanging messages among servers (paragraph 115 and server (106), whereby the server is communicating with other ISPs which may contain a server according to paragraph 115) comprising: an absence-response-information accepting process to receive absence response information when a mail address changes (paragraph 10), this information includes the old and new address (paragraph 7); a process to extract a mail address of another member of the group from a previously provided mail list (paragraph 58 and 61); a server to which the absence response information is provided on the basis of the extracted mail address (See Figure 21: Network server); and a process for distributing the information to the specified server (See Figure 27).

As per claim 17, Bilbrey teaches transfer notification when the mail has been transferred to the new address in order to notify the administrator or requestor of the mail that the mail has been transferred to the new address (Figure 27: (2704), network server sends e-mail messages to old and new address to confirm address change).

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As per claim 18, Bilbrey teaches an absence-response-information accepting process to receive absence response information when a mail address changes (paragraph 10), this information includes the old and new address (paragraph 7); transmit input data of information to the server (see Figure 27: network server (2709)).

As per claim 19, Bilbrey teaches an absence-response-information accepting process to receive absence response information when a mail address changes (paragraph 10), this information includes the old and new address (paragraph 7); a process to extract a mail address of another member of the group from a previously provided mail list (paragraph 58 and 61); a server to which the absence response information is provided on the basis of the extracted mail address (See Figure 21: Network server); and a process for distributing the information to the specified server (See Figure 27).

As per claim 20, Bilbrey teaches the information received contains information regarding a valid period of the absence response (paragraph 107: timer).

As per claim 21, Bilbrey teaches the information distributing process which simultaneously distributes pieces of absence response information to be distributed to the same server to which the absence response information is provided (see Figure 27: network server (2709)).

As per claim 22, Bilbrey teaches a message address management system for exchanging messages among servers (paragraph 115 and server (106), whereby the server is communicating with other ISPs which may contain a server

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according to paragraph 115) comprising: an absence-response-information accepting process to receive absence response information when a mail address changes (paragraph 10), this information includes the old and new address (paragraph 7); processing to store and manage the information (database (102) and see Figure 1: process for managing database information); judgment processing to judge if an accepted transmission mail matches the old address contained in the absence response information (paragraph 64 and 92 (1912)); transfer processing to transmit the mail after replacement of the address with the new address when the address matches the old address (claim 15).

As per claim 23, Bilbrey teaches transfer notification when the mail has been transferred to the new address in order to notify the administrator or requestor of the mail that the mail has been transferred to the new address (Figure 27: (2704), network server sends e-mail messages to old and new address to confirm address change).

As per claim 24, Bilbrey teaches a message address management system for exchanging messages among servers (paragraph 115 and server (106), whereby the server is communicating with other ISPs which may contain a server according to paragraph 115) comprising: an absence-response-information accepting process to receive absence response information when a mail address changes (paragraph 10), this information includes the old and new address (paragraph 7); transmit input data of information to the server (see Figure 27: network server (2709)).

Conclusion

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The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents also teach electronic mail address routing: Nielsen (US 6,405,243), Tsuei (US 6,654,779), Fuisz (US 6,643,688), Schoeffler (US 2001/0049745), Salzfass (US 2002/0042815), Goldschneider (US 2002/0107925), Sommerer (US 2002/0143879), and Nakao (US 2004/0049548).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Linda Morawski whose telephone number is 571-272-6931. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.


Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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10.19.2005



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